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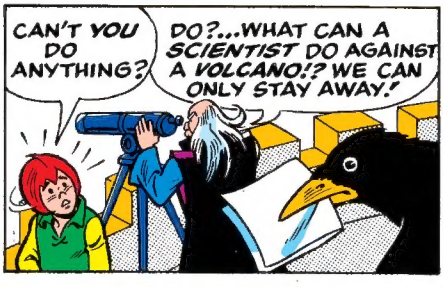
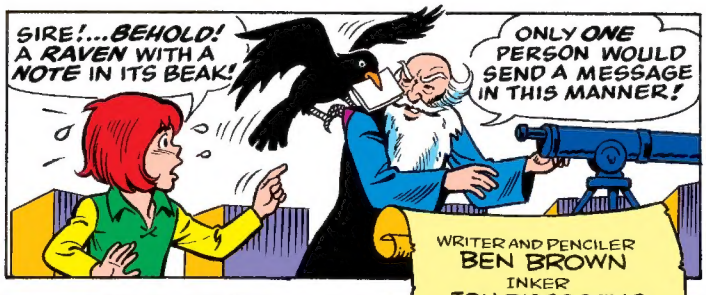
MARVEL®
WALLY
THE WIZARD™
OH, NO! LOOK, WALLY, LOOK! MY BROTHER MERLIN HAS RETURNED!!
W. KREMER

WALLY THE WONDERFUL WIZARD in

THE RETURN OF MERLIN





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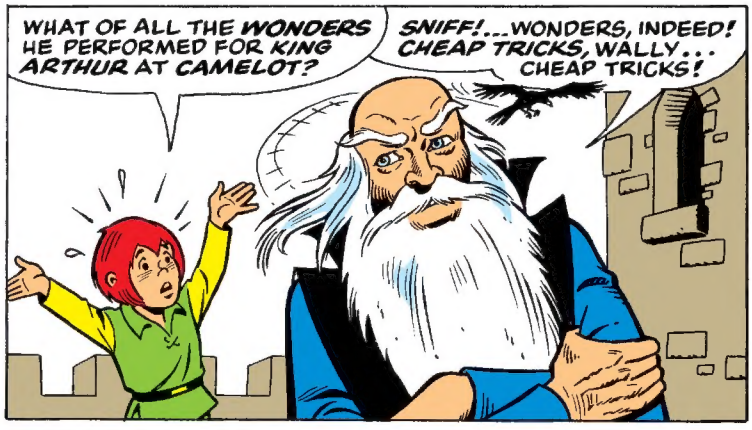
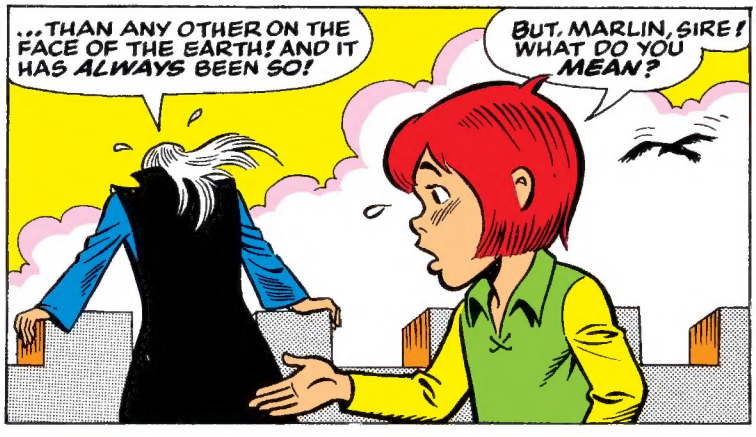
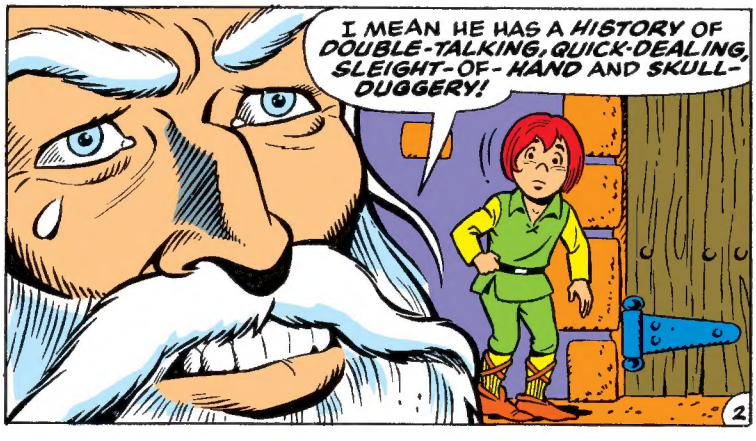
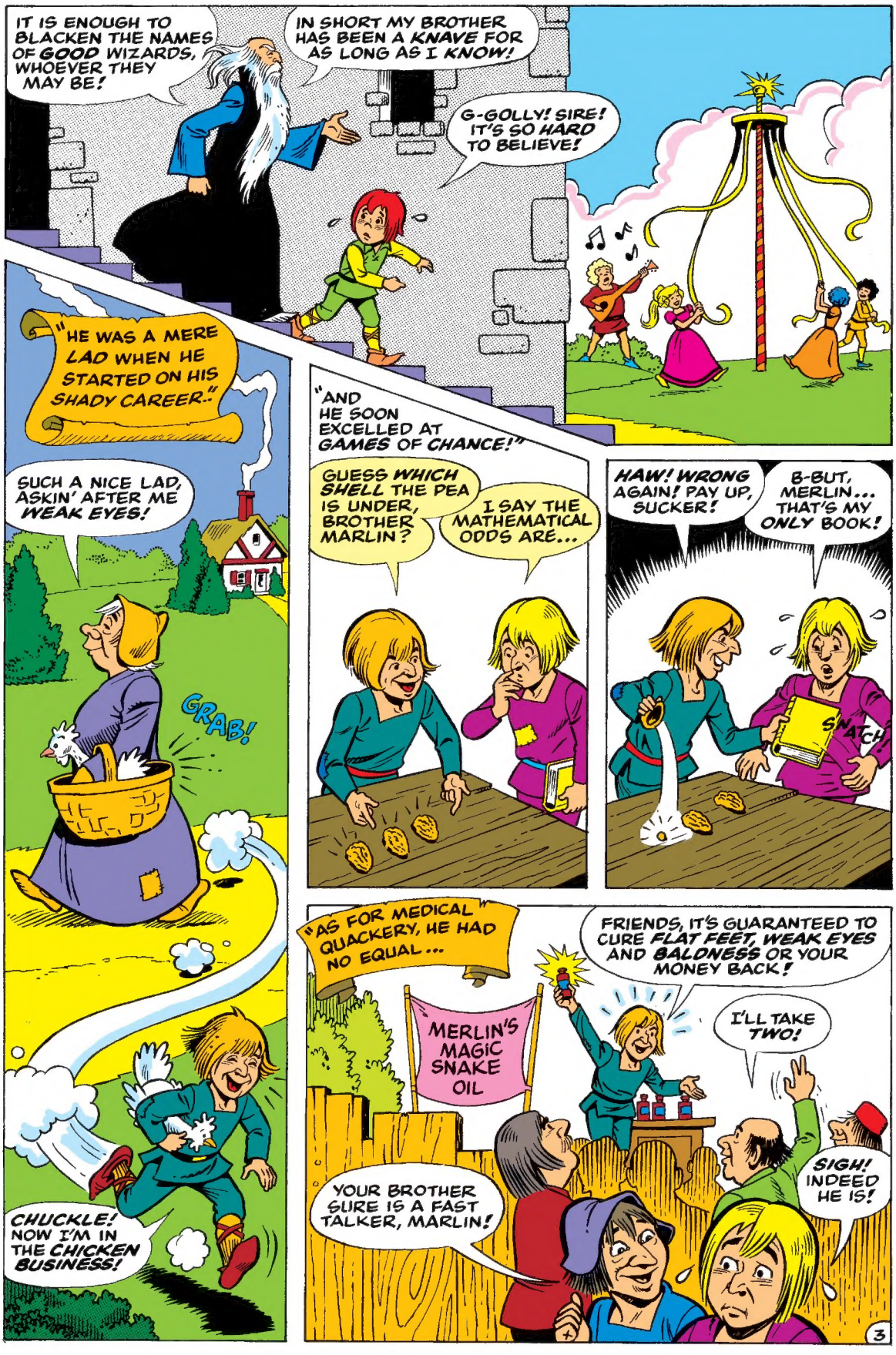
SIRE, MERLIN'S FAME IS LEGENDARY! THE TROUBADOURS SING OF HIS PROWESS!
IF YOU MEAN MERLIN THE CHARLATAN, MY YOUNG APPRENTICE, THE ANSWER IS YES!

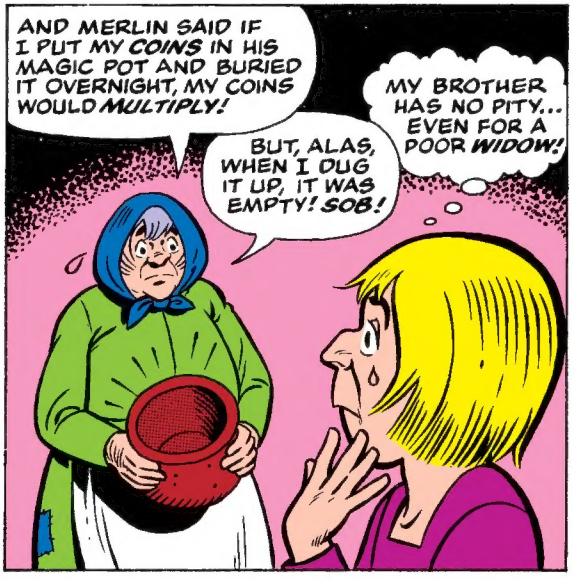

WHAT OF ALL THE WONDERS HE PERFORMED FOR KING ARTHUR AT CAMELOT?
SNIFF!...WONDERS, INDEED! CHEAP TRICKS, WALLY... CHEAP TRICKS!

THAT MAN HAS MORE WAYS TO FOOL-TO FAKE-TO PREVARICATE--

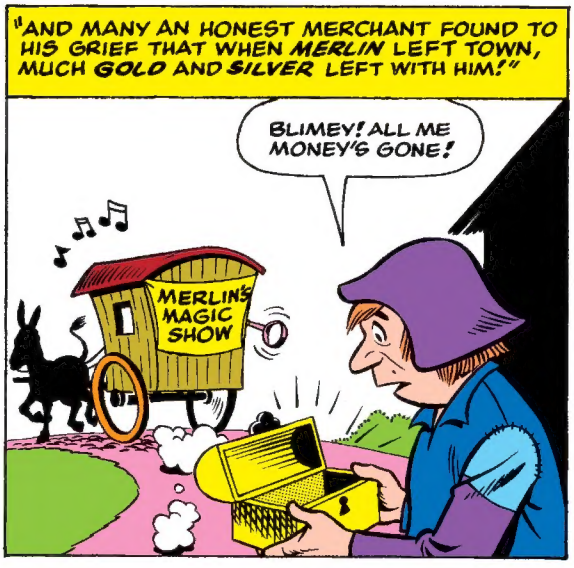

...THAN ANY OTHER ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH! AND IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN SO!
BUT, MARLIN, SIRE! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


I MEAN HE HAS A HISTORY OF DOUBLE-TALKING, QUICK-DEALING, SLEIGHT-OF-HAND AND SKULL-DUGGERY!


IT IS ENOUGH TO BLACKEN THE NAMES OF GOOD WIZARDS, WHOEVER THEY MAY BE!
IN SHORT MY BROTHER HAS BEEN A KNAVE FOR AS LONG AS I KNOW!
G-GOLLY! SIRE! IT'S SO HARD TO BELIEVE!
"HE WAS A MERE LAD WHEN HE STARTED ON HIS SHADY CAREER."
SUCH A NICE LAD, ASKIN' AFTER ME WEAK EYES!
GRAB!
CHUCKLE! NOW I'M IN THE CHICKEN BUSINESS!
"AND HE SOON EXCELLED AT GAMES OF CHANCE!"
GUESS WHICH SHELL THE PEA IS UNDER, BROTHER MARLIN?
I SAY THE MATHEMATICAL ODDS ARE...
HAW! WRONG AGAIN! PAY UP, SUCKER!
B-BUT, MERLIN... THAT'S MY ONLY BOOK!
SNATCH!
"AS FOR MEDICAL QUACKERY, HE HAD NO EQUAL...
MERLIN'S MAGIC SNAKE OIL
FRIENDS, IT'S GUARANTEED TO CURE FLAT FEET, WEAK EYES AND BALDNESS OR YOUR MONEY BACK!
I'LL TAKE TWO!
YOUR BROTHER SURE IS A FAST TALKER, MARLIN!
SIGH! INDEED HE IS!

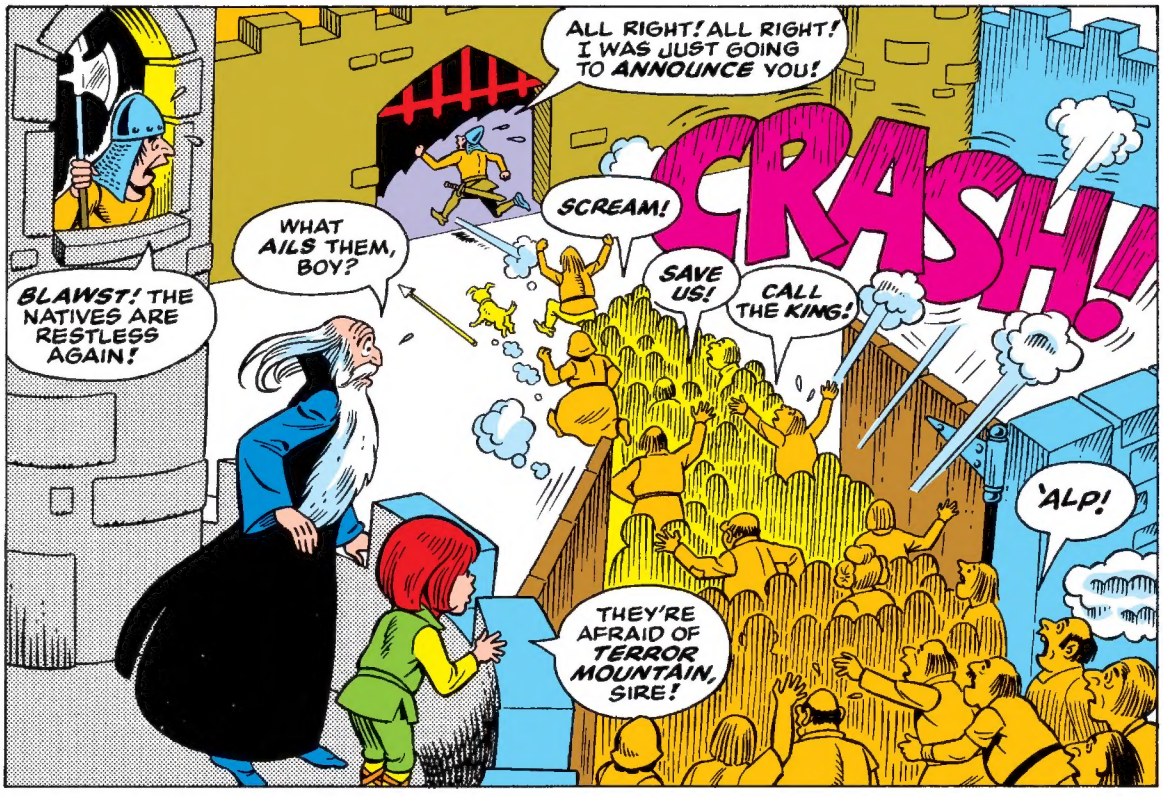

AND MERLIN SAID IF I PUT MY COINS IN HIS MAGIC POT AND BURIED IT OVERNIGHT, MY COINS WOULD MULTIPLY!
BUT, ALAS, WHEN I DUG IT UP, IT WAS EMPTY! SOB!
MY BROTHER HAS NO PITY... EVEN FOR A POOR WIDOW!

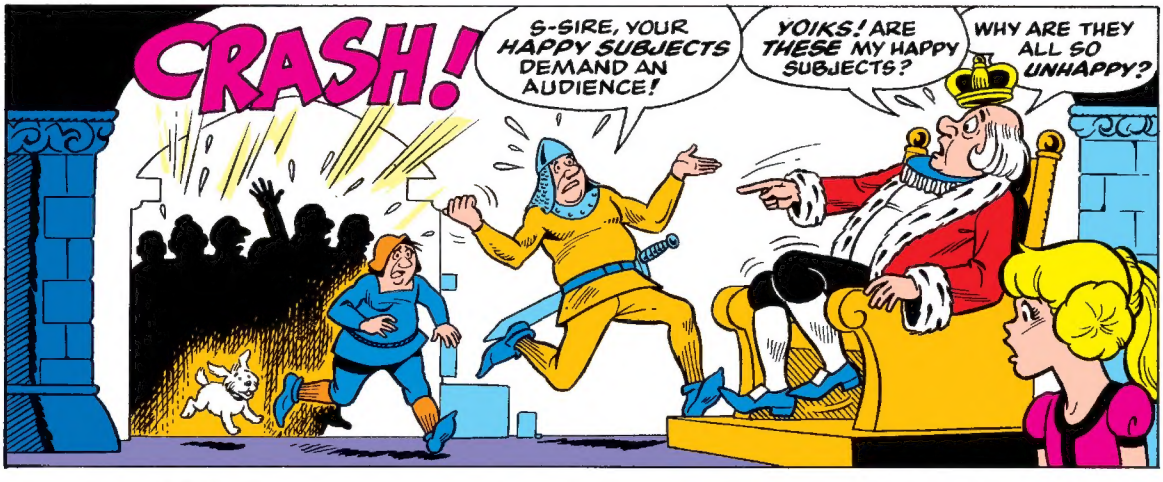
"THEN, ONE DAY..."
READ YOUR SILLY BOOKS, BROTHER MARLIN, I'M OFF TO BIGGER THINGS!
MERLIN, I BEG YOU TO MEND YOUR WAYS!

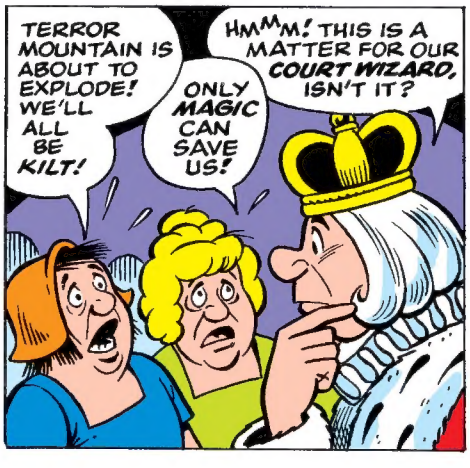

"AND MANY AN HONEST MERCHANT FOUND TO HIS GRIEF THAT WHEN MERLIN LEFT TOWN, MUCH GOLD AND SILVER LEFT WITH HIM!"
BLIMEY! ALL ME MONEY'S GONE!
MERLIN'S MAGIC SHOW

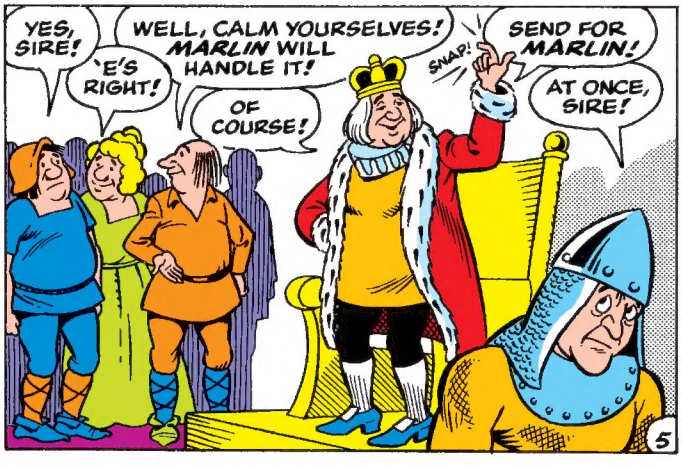
I HAVEN'T SEEN MY BROTHER FROM THAT DAY TO THIS...BUT I DOUBT HE HAS CHANGED MUCH!
SIRE! DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

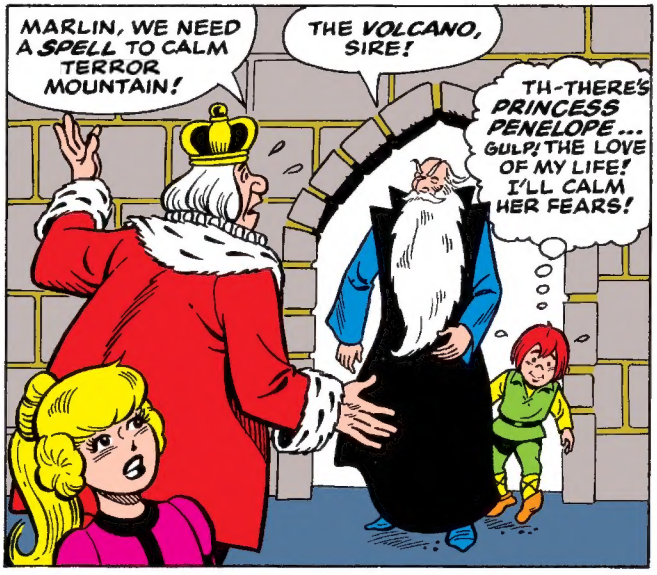
M-MARLIN... LOOK! A MOB!
HALT IN THE KING'S NAME!
'ELP! TERROR MOUNTAIN IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE!
IT WILL DESTROY OUR VILLAGE! :SOB:!
WE KNOW 'CAUSE WE SAW A RAVEN!
SOB!
THE KING MUST SAVE US!
LET US IN TO SEE THE KING!
YOIKS!
SCREAM!

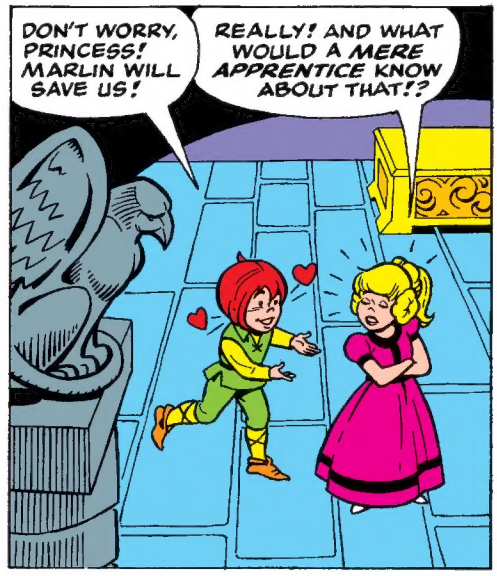

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! I WAS JUST GOING TO ANNOUNCE YOU!
CRASH!
SCREAM!
WHAT AILS THEM, BOY?
SAVE US!
CALL THE KING!
BLAWST! THE NATIVES ARE RESTLESS AGAIN!
'ALP!
THEY'RE AFRAID OF TERROR MOUNTAIN, SIRE!

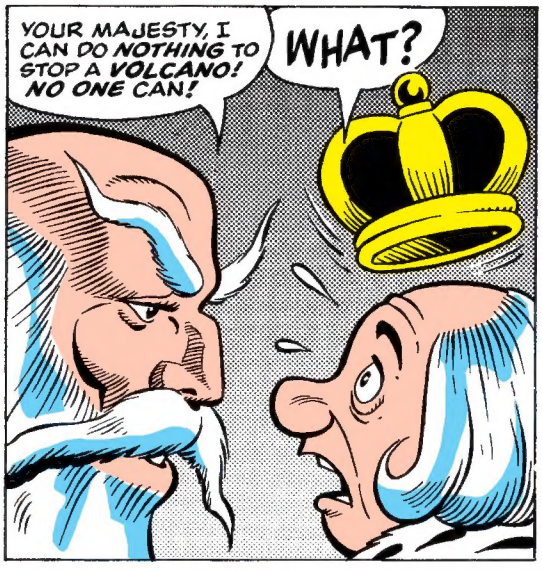

CRASH!
S-SIRE, YOUR HAPPY SUBJECTS DEMAND AN AUDIENCE!
YOIKS! ARE THESE MY HAPPY SUBJECTS?
WHY ARE THEY ALL SO UNHAPPY?

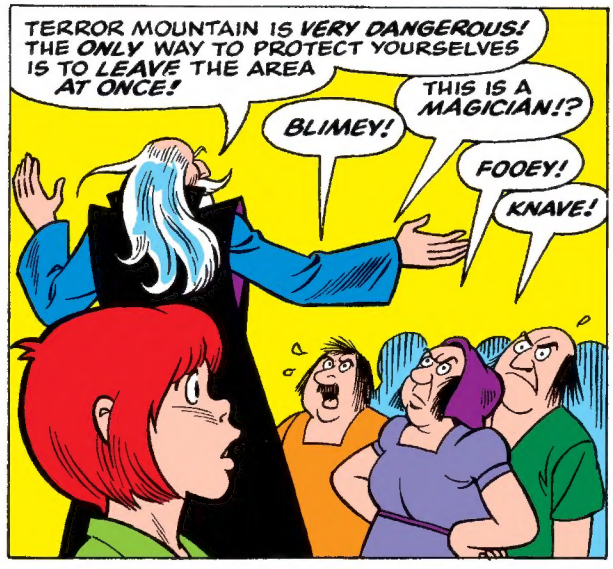

TERROR MOUNTAIN IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE! WE'LL ALL BE KILT!
ONLY MAGIC CAN SAVE US!
HMMMM! THIS IS A MATTER FOR OUR COURT WIZARD, ISN'T IT?

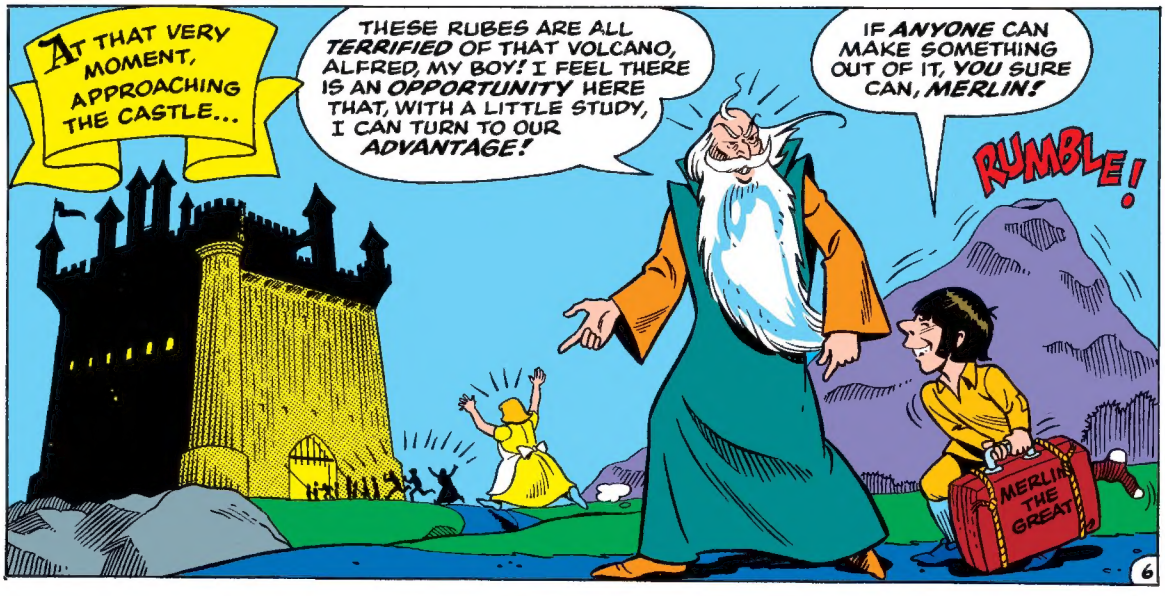

YES, SIRE!
'E'S RIGHT!
WELL, CALM YOURSELVES! MARLIN WILL HANDLE IT!
OF COURSE!
SNAP!
SEND FOR MARLIN!
AT ONCE, SIRE!

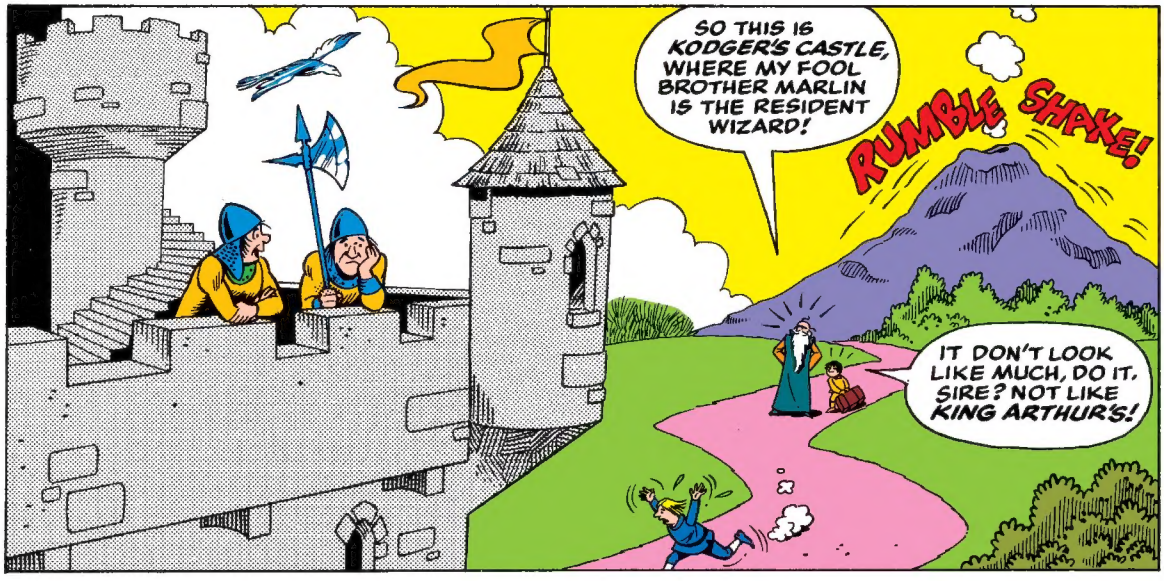

MARLIN, WE NEED A SPELL TO CALM TERROR MOUNTAIN!
THE VOLCANO, SIRE!
TH-THERE'S PRINCESS PENELOPE... GULP! THE LOVE OF MY LIFE! I'LL CALM HER FEARS!


DON'T WORRY, PRINCESS! MARLIN WILL SAVE US!
REALLY! AND WHAT WOULD A MERE APPRENTICE KNOW ABOUT THAT!?

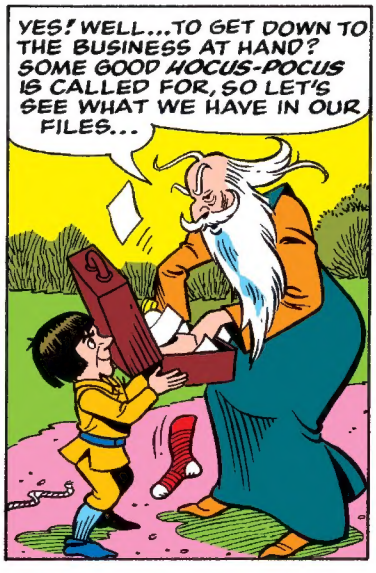

YOUR MAJESTY, I CAN DO NOTHING TO STOP A VOLCANO! NO ONE CAN!
WHAT?


TERROR MOUNTAIN IS VERY DANGEROUS! THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT YOURSELVES IS TO LEAVE THE AREA AT ONCE!
BLIMEY!
THIS IS A MAGICIAN!?
FOOEY!
KNAVE!

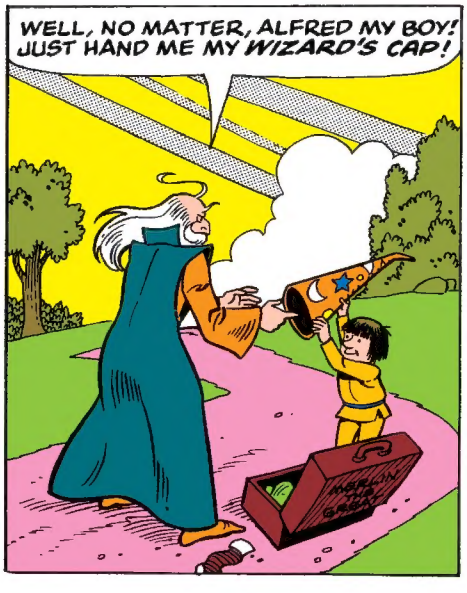

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, APPROACHING THE CASTLE...
THESE RUBES ARE ALL TERRIFIED OF THAT VOLCANO, ALFRED, MY BOY! I FEEL THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY HERE THAT, WITH A LITTLE STUDY, I CAN TURN TO OUR ADVANTAGE!
IF ANYONE CAN MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF IT, YOU SURE CAN, MERLIN!
RUMBLE!
MERLIN THE GREAT


SO THIS IS KODGER'S CASTLE, WHERE MY FOOL BROTHER MARLIN IS THE RESIDENT WIZARD!
RUMBLE SHAKE!
IT DON'T LOOK LIKE MUCH, DO IT, SIRE? NOT LIKE KING ARTHUR'S!

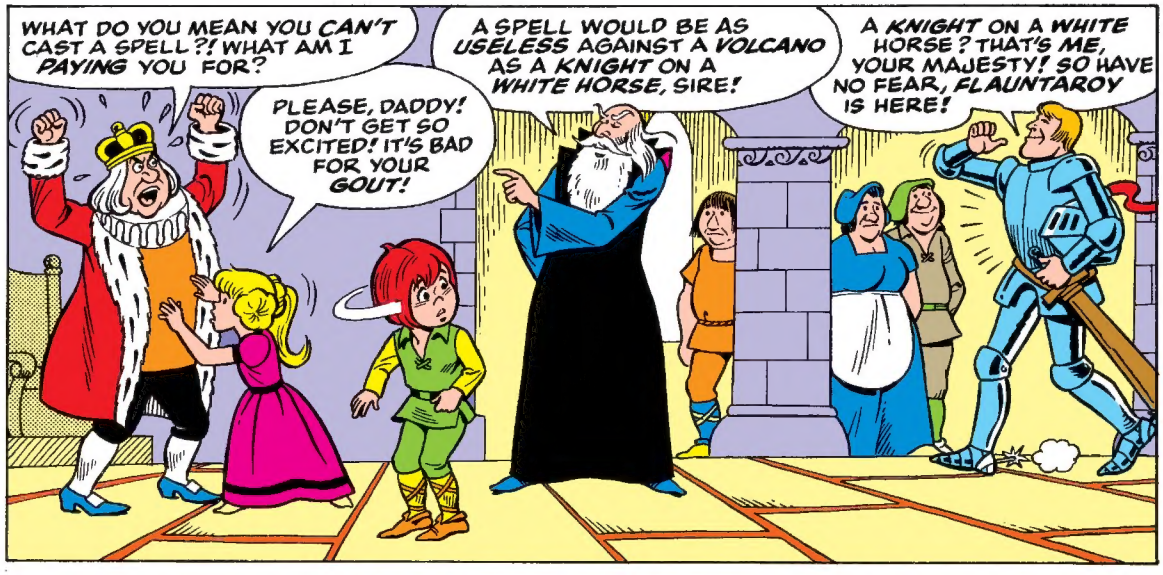
AH, CAMELOT! A GREAT BOOKING, MY BOY! BUT I AM A RESTLESS SORT AND IN TIME, THE LURE OF OTHER PLACES...PERHAPS GREATER OPPORTUNITIES, CALL, SO...
SO 'ERE WE ARE... RIGHT, SIRE?

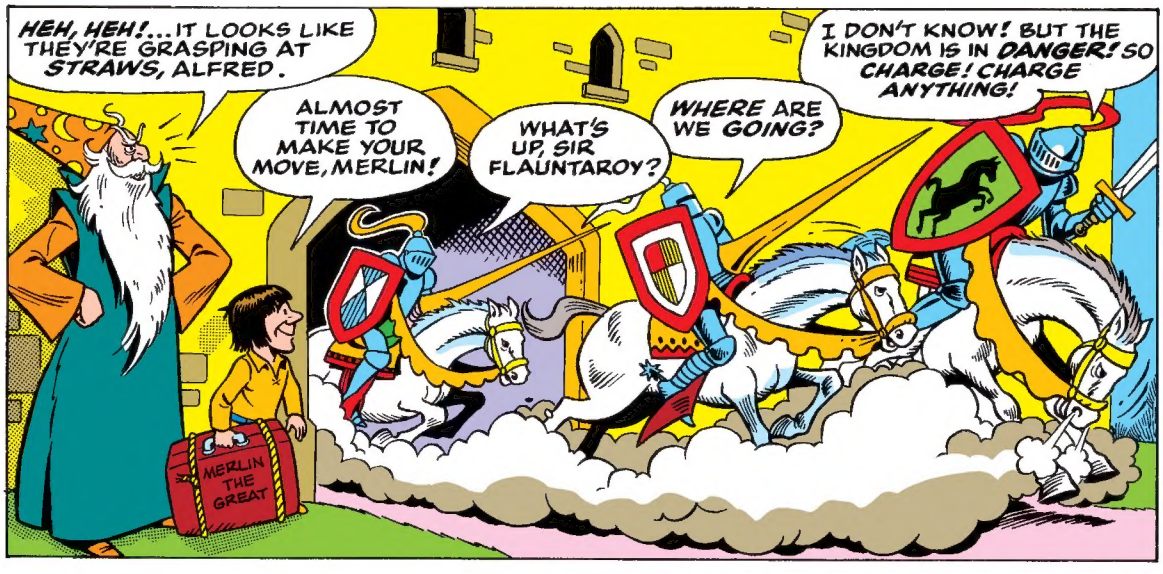

YES! WELL...TO GET DOWN TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND? SOME GOOD HOCUS-POCUS IS CALLED FOR, SO LET'S SEE WHAT WE HAVE IN OUR FILES...

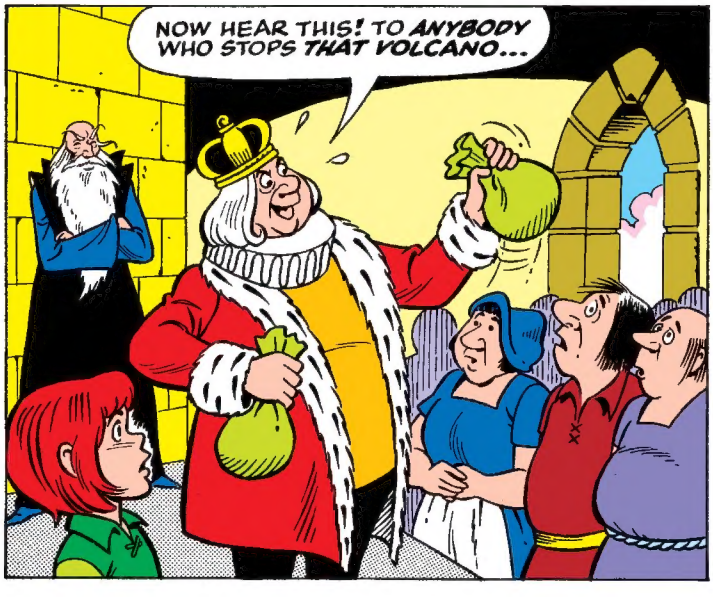
HM! SPELLS FOR RAIN! NO! SPELLS FOR TOO MUCH RAIN! NO! SPELLS FOR DISPEPSIA... NO, NO! I SEE WE HAVE NOTHING ON HAND FOR VOLCANOS! TSK! TSK!


WELL, NO MATTER, ALFRED MY BOY! JUST HAND ME MY WIZARD'S CAP!

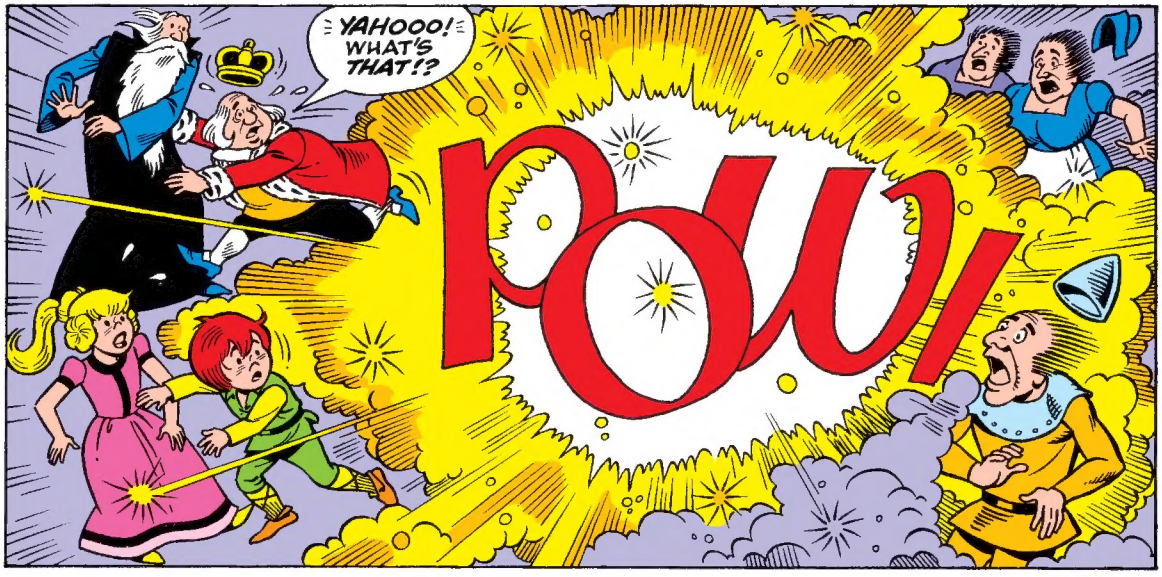
NOW THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN A CLASS ACT LIKE OURS IS A KNOCK-OUT ENTRANCE! LET ME GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO THAT DETAIL!
I CAN'T WAIT, MERLIN, SIRE! YOU'LL REALLY SLAY THEM! I JUST KNOW IT!

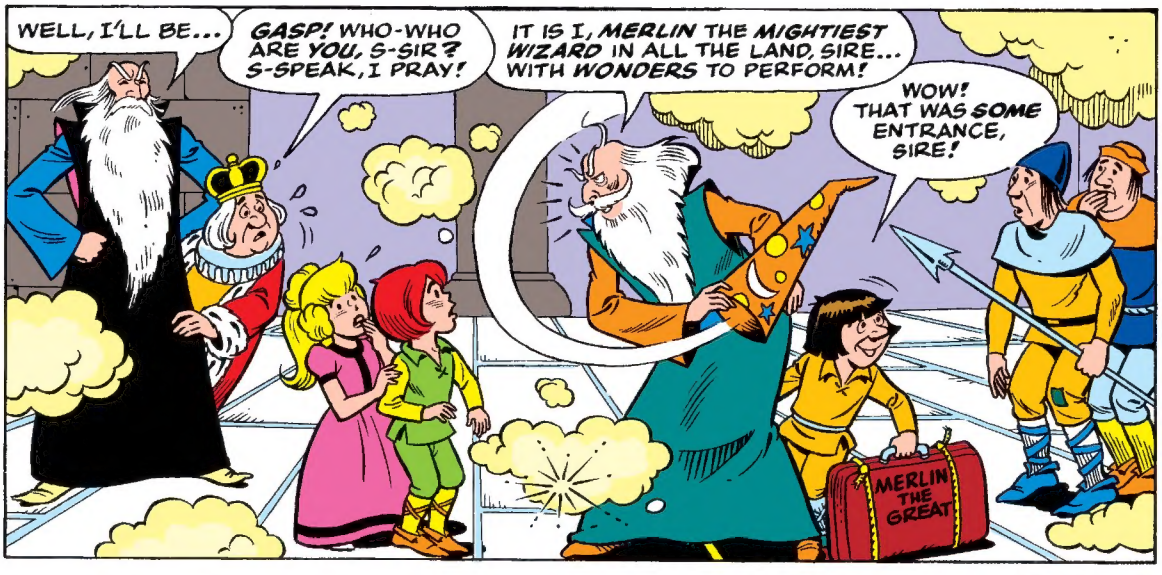

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T CAST A SPELL?! WHAT AM I PAYING YOU FOR?
PLEASE, DADDY! DON'T GET SO EXCITED! IT'S BAD FOR YOUR GOUT!
A SPELL WOULD BE AS USELESS AGAINST A VOLCANO AS A KNIGHT ON A WHITE HORSE, SIRE!
A KNIGHT ON A WHITE HORSE? THAT'S ME, YOUR MAJESTY! SO HAVE NO FEAR, FLAUNTAROY IS HERE!


HEH, HEH!...IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GRASPING AT STRAWS, ALFRED.
ALMOST TIME TO MAKE YOUR MOVE, MERLIN!
WHAT'S UP, SIR FLAUNTAROY?
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
I DON'T KNOW! BUT THE KINGDOM IS IN DANGER! SO CHARGE! CHARGE ANYTHING!
MERLIN THE GREAT


NOW HEAR THIS! TO ANYBODY WHO STOPS THAT VOLCANO...

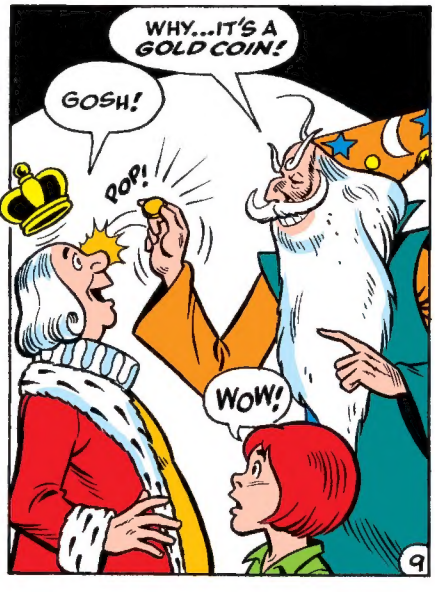
...I'LL GIVE TWO BAGS OF GOLD!
AHA!...I THINK I HEAR MY CUE!


YAHOOO! WHAT'S THAT!?
POW!


WELL, I'LL BE...
GASP! WHO-WHO ARE YOU, S-SIR? S-SPEAK, I PRAY!
IT IS I, MERLIN THE MIGHTIEST WIZARD IN ALL THE LAND, SIRE... WITH WONDERS TO PERFORM!
WOW! THAT WAS SOME ENTRANCE, SIRE!
MERLIN THE GREAT

MERLIN! OF ALL THE CHEAP TRICKS!
HEL-LO, DEAR BROTHER MARLIN!

EXCUSE ME, YOUR MAJESTY ...WHAT DO I SEE IN YOUR NOSE?
HUH?


WHY...IT'S A GOLD COIN!
GOSH!
POP!
WOW!

NOW FOR SOME DIAMONDS FROM THE QUEEN'S EAR!
?

VOILA! YOUR MAJESTY!
GASP!
POP!

SAY! HE'S GOOD!
LET'S INVITE HIM TO DINNER!

DASH IT, MERLIN! LET GO OF MY BEARD!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU HAVE HIDDEN HERE, MARLIN...?

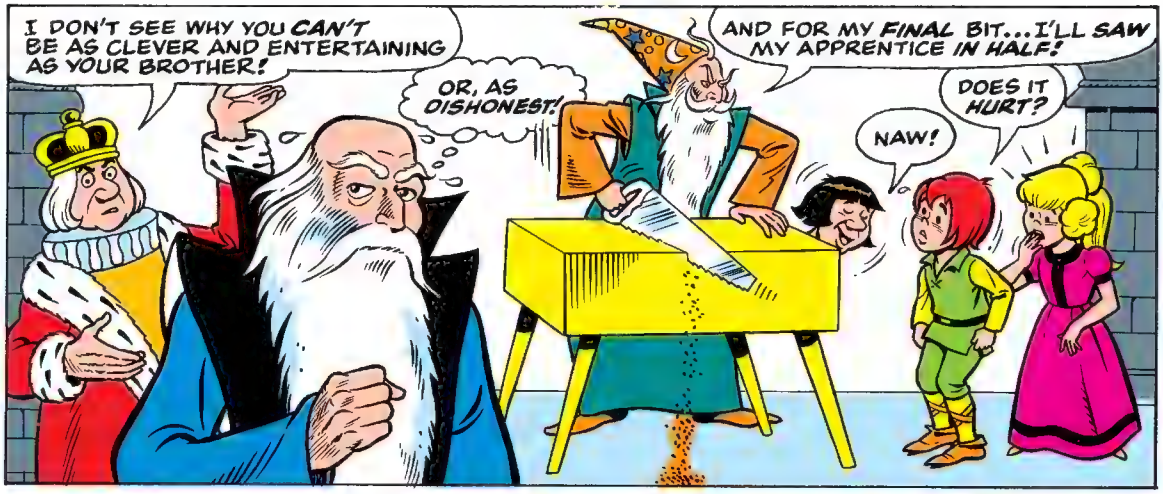
SNORT!
BEHOLD! IT'S A RABBIT!
PLUCK!

WHY CAN'T YOU DO TRICKS LIKE THAT, MARLIN?
REALLY! YOUR MAJESTY!

HI, KID! THE NAME IS ALFRED!... MERLIN'S APPRENTICE...SHAKE!
I'M WALLY, MARLIN'S APPRENTICE!

YEOW!
BZZZZZZ!

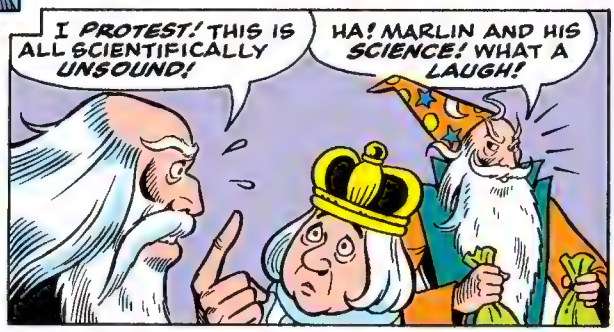
HAW! JUST A LITTLE GAG, KIDDO! SAY, WHO ARE YOU, SWEET STUFF!?
HOW DARE YOU! GIGGLE!

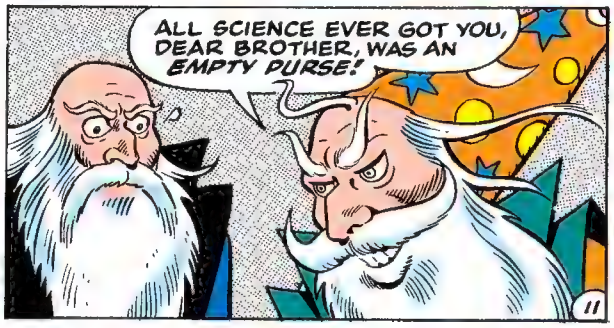

I DON'T SEE WHY YOU CAN'T BE AS CLEVER AND ENTERTAINING AS YOUR BROTHER!
OR, AS DISHONEST!
AND FOR MY FINAL BIT...I'LL SAW MY APPRENTICE IN HALF!
DOES IT HURT?
NAW!

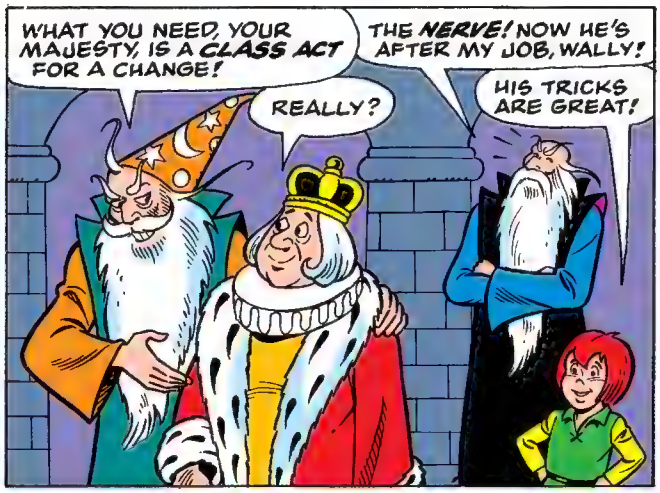
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW A GOOD SPELL FOR VOLCANOES, MERLIN!?
IT JUST SO HAPPENS I HAVE THE ONLY SPELL, YOUR MAJESTY!
STAY AWAY FROM TERROR MOUNTAIN! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS, MERLIN!
YOU ALWAYS WERE A SCAREDYCAT, MARLIN!

THIS SPELL IS GUARANTEED TO WORK! THE COST TO YOU, SIR, AT A DISCOUNT, OF COURSE...
THIS IS FOOLHARDY! I BEG OF YOU!

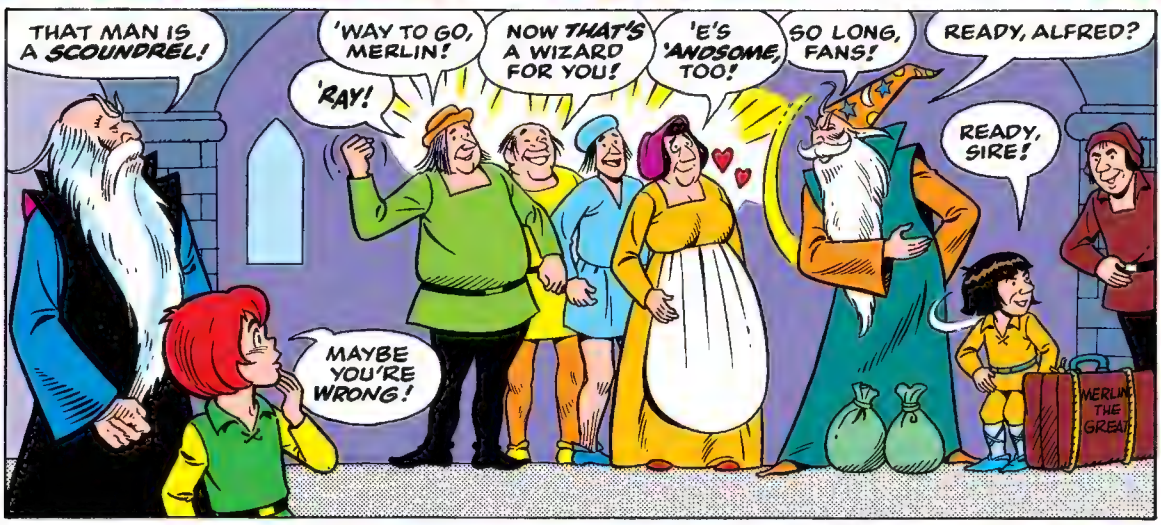
...IS JUST TWO BAGS OF GOLD!
A REAL BARGAIN, SIRE!
SNATCH!
SNATCH!

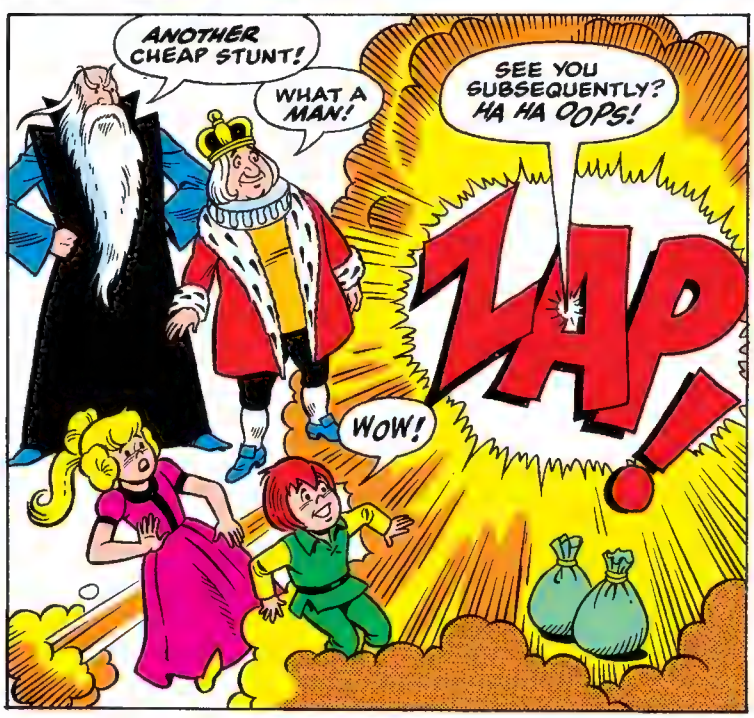

I PROTEST! THIS IS ALL SCIENTIFICALLY UNSOUND!
HA! MARLIN AND HIS SCIENCE! WHAT A LAUGH!

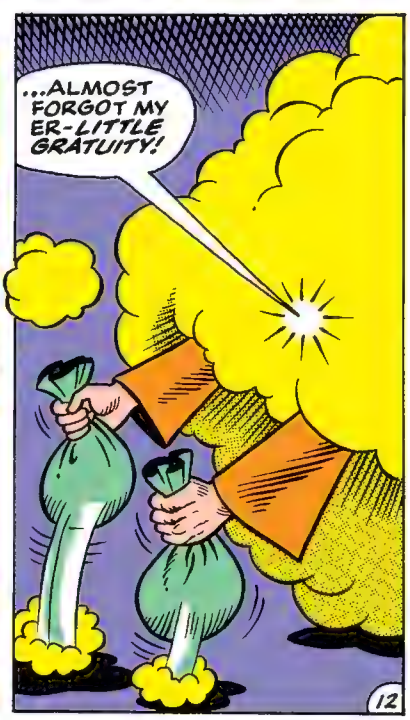

ALL SCIENCE EVER GOT YOU, DEAR BROTHER, WAS AN EMPTY PURSE!

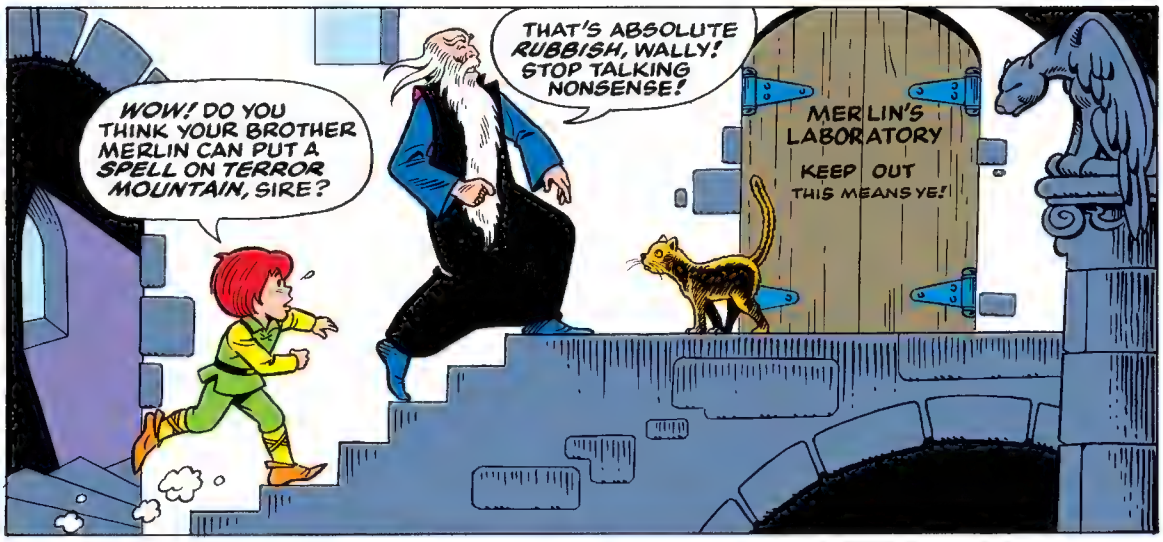

WHAT YOU NEED, YOUR MAJESTY, IS A CLASS ACT FOR A CHANGE!
REALLY?
THE NERVE! NOW HE'S AFTER MY JOB, WALLY!
HIS TRICKS ARE GREAT!

SO JUST PUT YOUR TRUST IN MERLIN AND YOUR TROUBLES WILL BE OVER!


THAT MAN IS A SCOUNDREL!
'WAY TO GO, MERLIN!
'RAY!
NOW THAT'S A WIZARD FOR YOU!
'E'S 'ANDSOME, TOO!
SO LONG, FANS!
READY, ALFRED?
READY, SIRE!
MAYBE YOU'RE WRONG!
MERLIN THE GREAT


ANOTHER CHEAP STUNT!
WHAT A MAN!
SEE YOU SUBSEQUENTLY? HA HA OOPS!
ZAP!
WOW!


...ALMOST FORGOT MY ER-LITTLE GRATUITY!

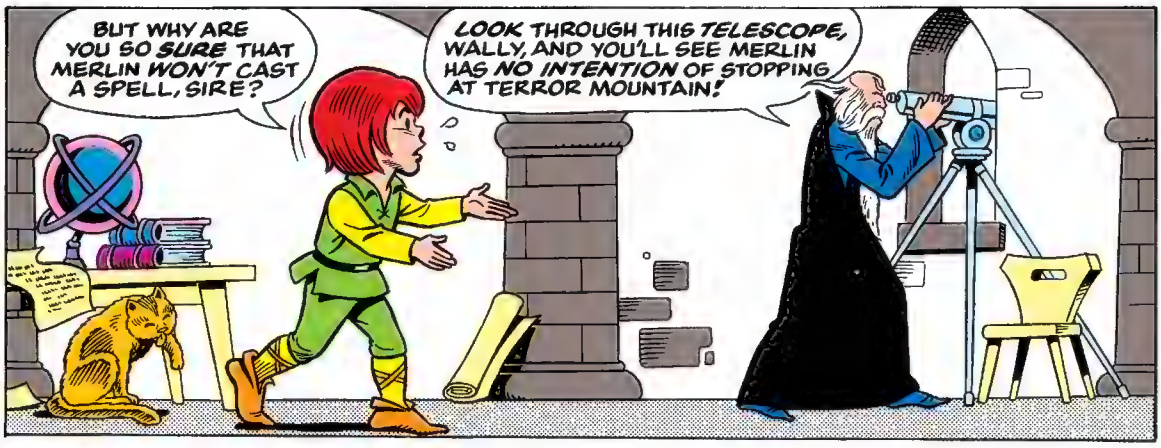

WOW! DO YOU THINK YOUR BROTHER MERLIN CAN PUT A SPELL ON TERROR MOUNTAIN, SIRE?
THAT'S ABSOLUTE RUBBISH, WALLY! STOP TALKING NONSENSE!
MERLIN'S LABORATORY
KEEP OUT
THIS MEANS YE!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT SCIENCE IS GREATER THAN ANY SPELL?
YES, MARLIN! SORRY!

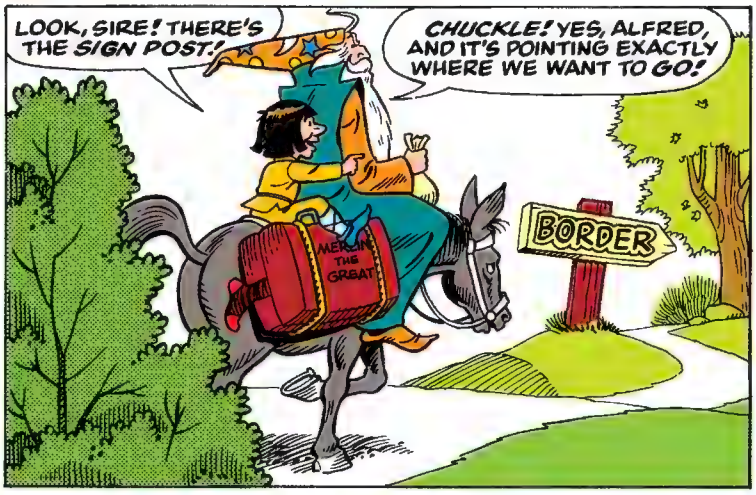
BUT WHAT IF MERLIN'S SPELL DOES WORK?
GROAN!... STOP! NO MORE!

I INTERVIEWED LADS FROM ALL OVER THE KINGDOM! I HAD MY CHOICE OF APPRENTICES...

...AND I CHOSE WALLY...WHY? SIGH!
WELL, ALFRED, WITH A BIT OF LUCK THAT MOUNTAIN WON'T EXPLODE UNTIL WE'RE SAFELY OVER THE BORDER WITH KING KODGER'S GOLD!
YOU'RE THE TOP, MERLIN, SIRE!
MERLIN THE GREAT
CLIP CLOP!


BUT WHY ARE YOU SO SURE THAT MERLIN WON'T CAST A SPELL, SIRE?
LOOK THROUGH THIS TELESCOPE, WALLY, AND YOU'LL SEE MERLIN HAS NO INTENTION OF STOPPING AT TERROR MOUNTAIN!

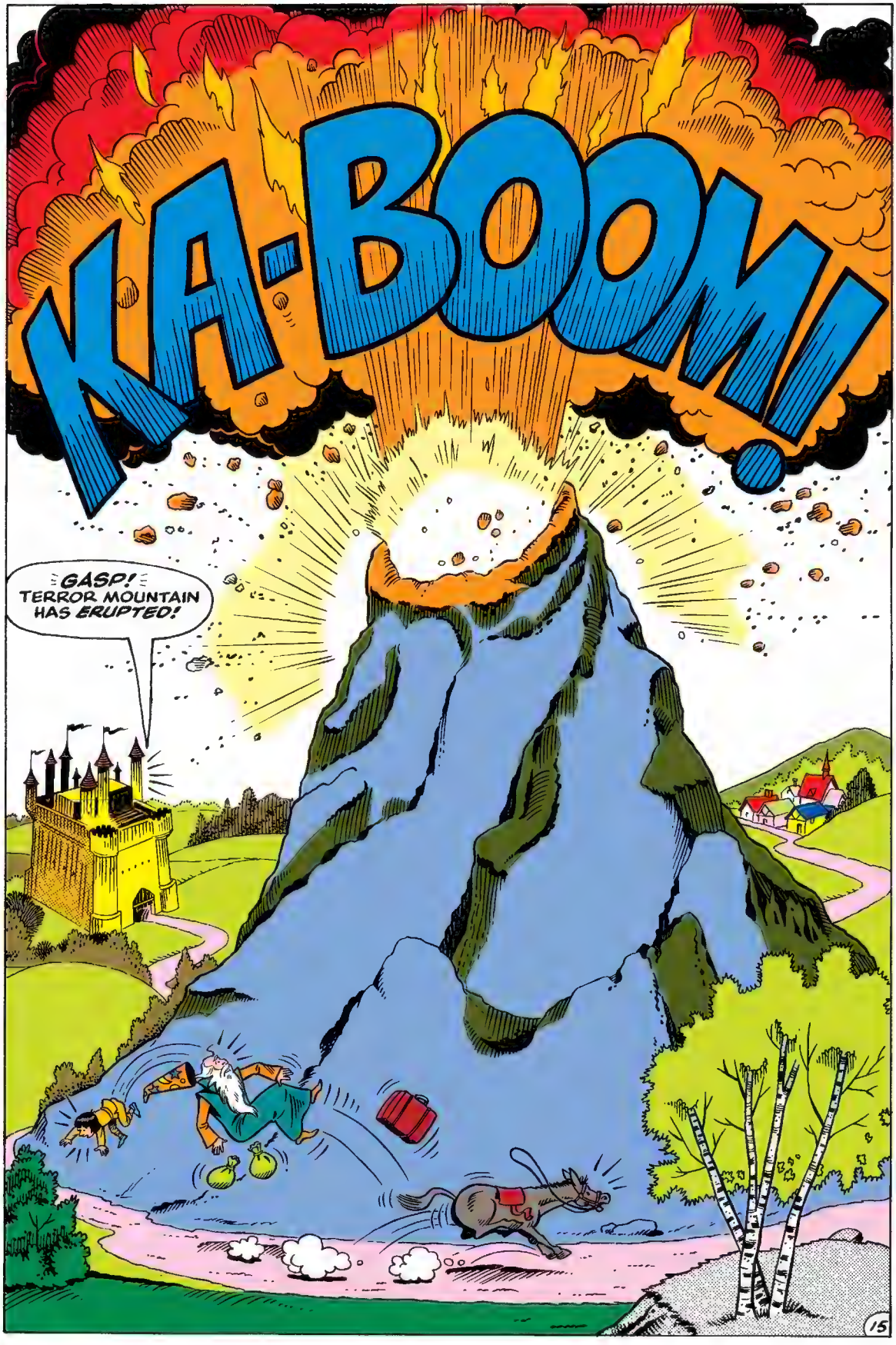
GULP! YOU'RE RIGHT, MARLIN! MERLIN IS HEADING FOR THE BORDER!

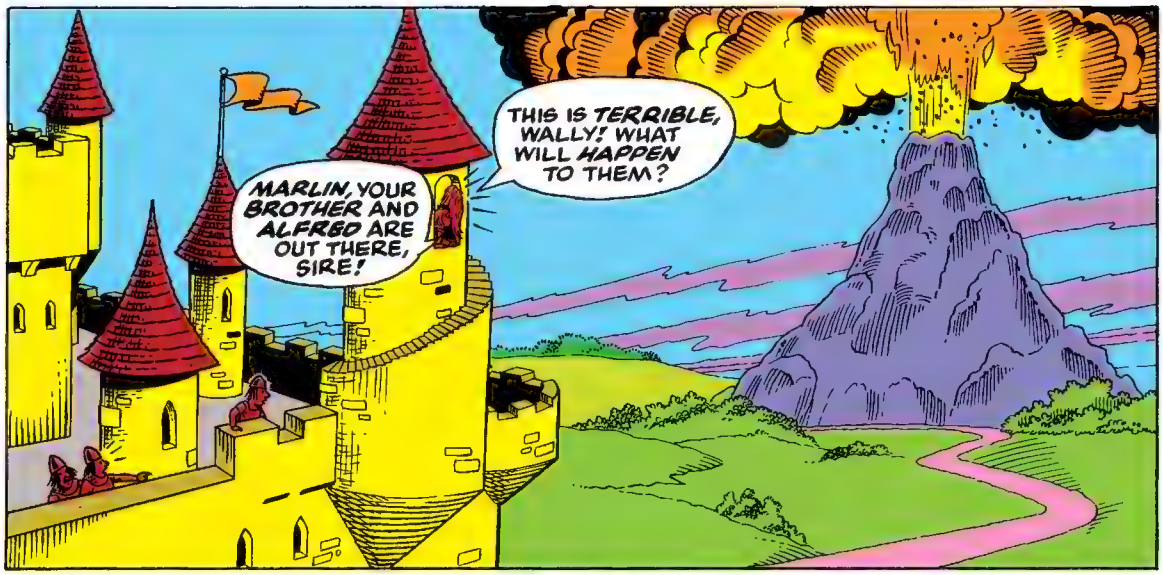

LOOK, SIRE! THERE'S THE SIGN POST!
CHUCKLE! YES, ALFRED, AND IT'S POINTING EXACTLY WHERE WE WANT TO GO!
MERLIN THE GREAT
BORDER

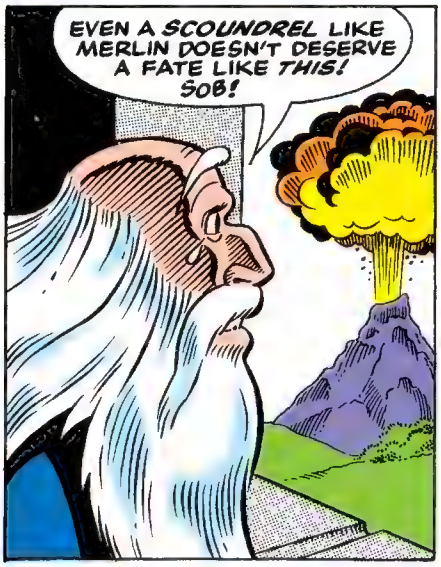
GULP!- L-LOOK, SIRE!

GASP!- OH, NO!

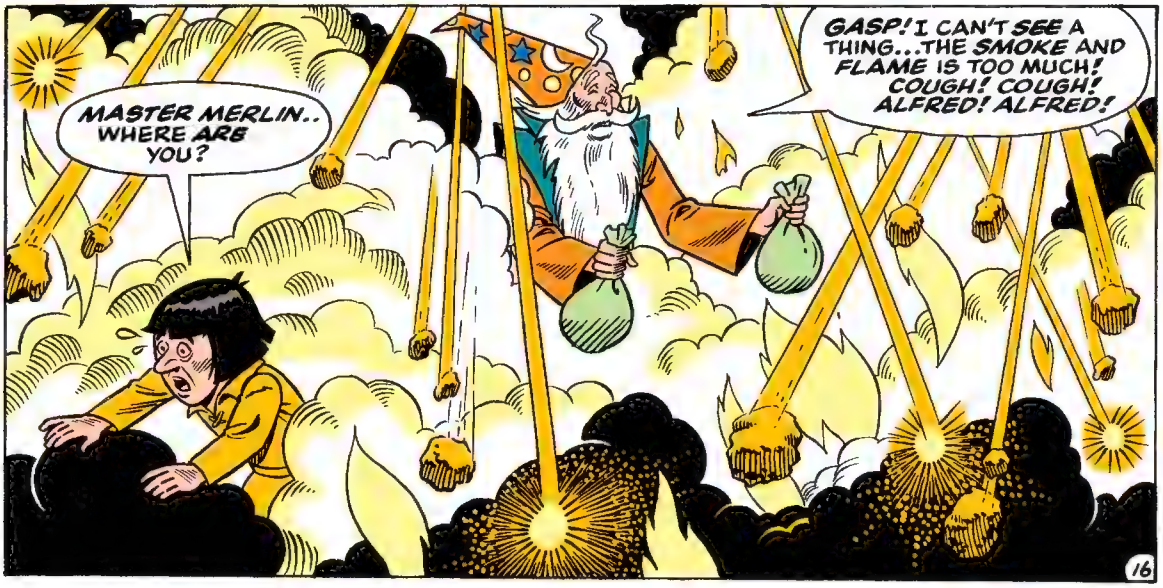
OH-
NO!

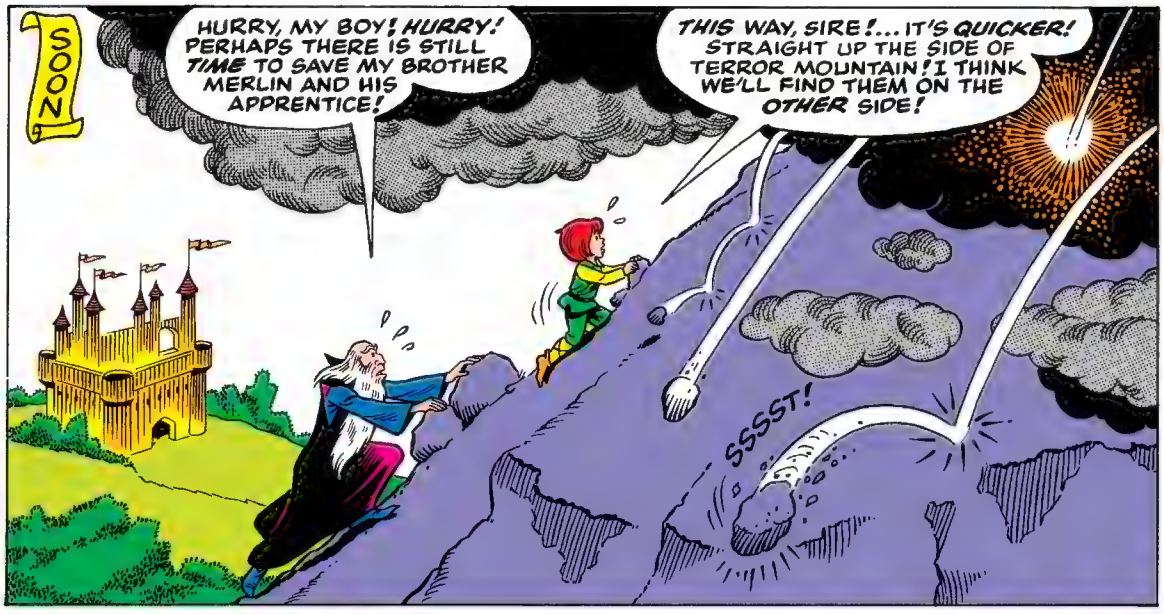

KA-BOOM!
GASP! TERROR MOUNTAIN HAS ERUPTED!


MARLIN, YOUR BROTHER AND ALFRED ARE OUT THERE, SIRE!
THIS IS TERRIBLE, WALLY! WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM?


EVEN A SCOUNDREL LIKE MERLIN DOESN'T DESERVE A FATE LIKE THIS! SOB!

ALAS! I FEAR THEY ARE LOST!
WE MUST TRY TO HELP THEM, SIRE!...HURRY!


MASTER MERLIN.. WHERE ARE YOU?
GASP! I CAN'T SEE A THING...THE SMOKE AND FLAME IS TOO MUCH! COUGH! COUGH! ALFRED! ALFRED!


SOON
HURRY, MY BOY! HURRY! PERHAPS THERE IS STILL TIME TO SAVE MY BROTHER MERLIN AND HIS APPRENTICE!
THIS WAY, SIRE!... IT'S QUICKER! STRAIGHT UP THE SIDE OF TERROR MOUNTAIN! I THINK WE'LL FIND THEM ON THE OTHER SIDE!
SSSST!

GASP! QUICKER, YES! WE MUST... GASP!... HURRY!

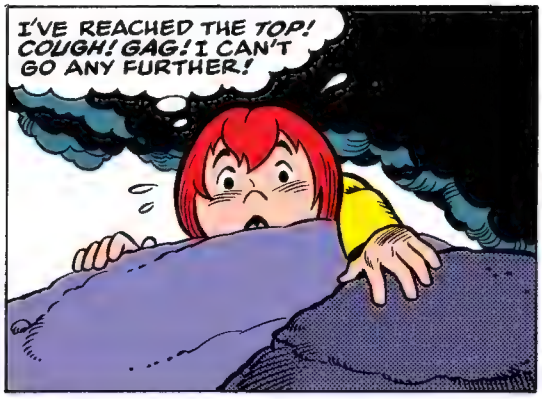
AH!...GASP! GASP! THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR ME...
SIRE! ...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

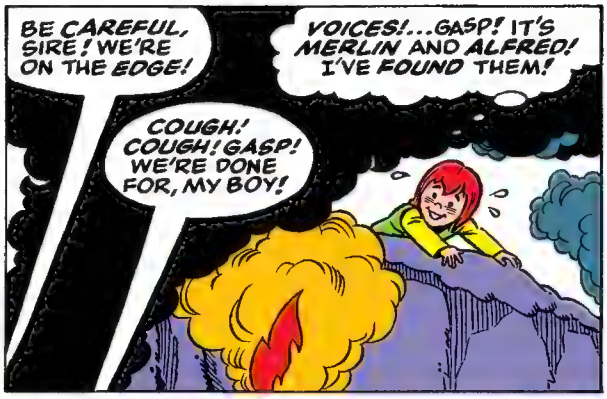
I'M AFRAID I'M TOO OLD FOR THIS CLIMB, WALLY! GASP, GASP!
YOU WAIT HERE, MARLIN! I'LL GO ON ALONE!

DON'T WORRY! I'LL FIND THEM, I PROMISE!
CAREFUL, MY BOY!

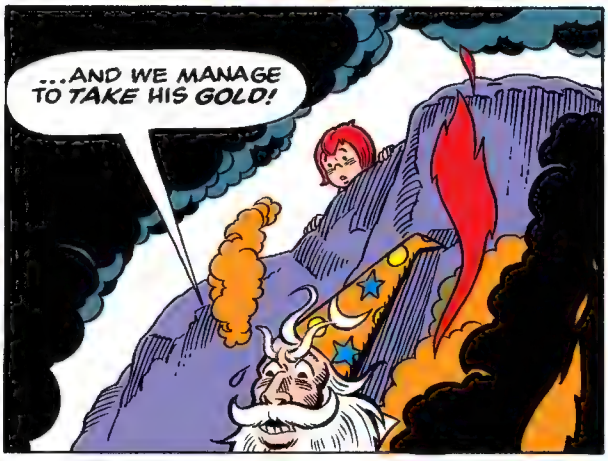
THE SMOKE IS THICKER... COUGH, COUGH!... BUT I MUST GO ON AND FIND MERLIN AND ALFRED! THEY'RE UP HERE ON THE MOUNTAIN SOMEWHERE!

WHAT A BRAVE LAD! MAY THE FATES WATCH OVER HIM! COUGH! GASP!

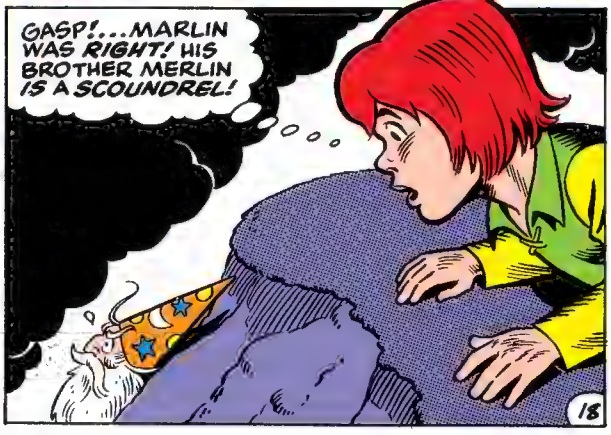

I'VE REACHED THE TOP! COUGH! GAG! I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER!


BE CAREFUL, SIRE! WE'RE ON THE EDGE!
VOICES!...GASP! IT'S MERLIN AND ALFRED! I'VE FOUND THEM!
COUGH! COUGH! GASP! WE'RE DONE FOR, MY BOY!

WHAT ROTTEN LUCK! JUST WHEN WE FOUND A REAL FOOL LIKE KING KODGER...
YIPES! WE'RE TRAPPED, SIRE!


...AND WE MANAGE TO TAKE HIS GOLD!

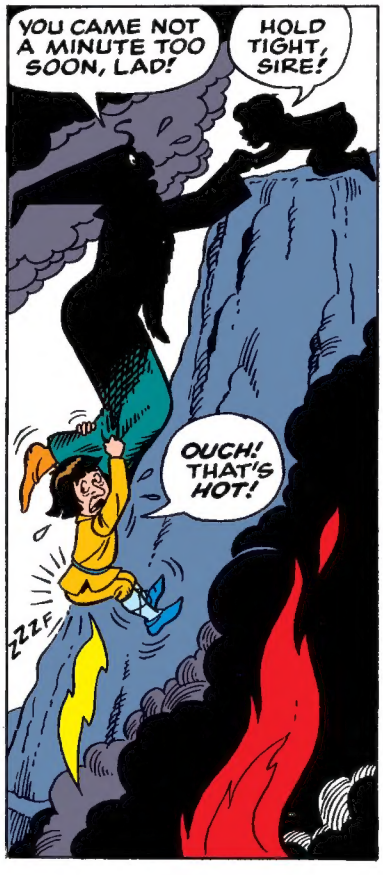
AND NOW...SOB! I'LL NEVER GET A CHANCE TO SPEND IT! LIFE IS TOO CRUEL!


GASP!...MARLIN WAS RIGHT! HIS BROTHER MERLIN IS A SCOUNDREL!

SOB! I'D TRADE MY SHARE OF THE GOLD FOR A WAY OUT OF HERE, MERLIN!
NO! GASP! NOT MY GOLD! NEVER!

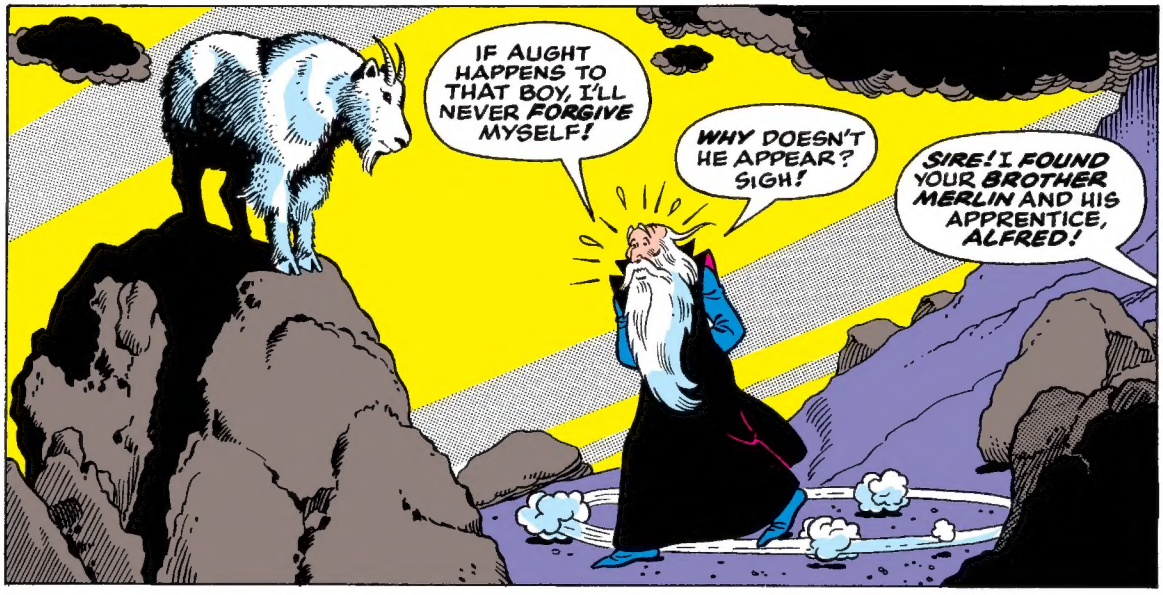
QUICK, SIRES! CLIMB UP HERE! I KNOW THE WAY TO SAFETY!
WHAT?! CAN IT BE? IT'S THE VOICE OF MARLIN'S APPRENTICE, THE LAD CALLED WALLY!

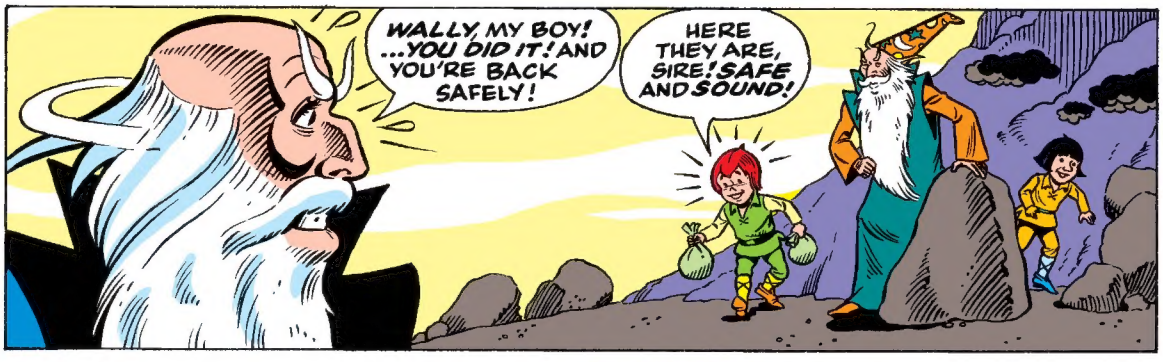
HAND THEM TO ME, SIRE! I'LL HOLD THEM FOR YOU!
DASH IT! I CAN'T CLIMB HOLDING THESE BAGS OF GOLD!
SOB! HURRY, PLEASE!

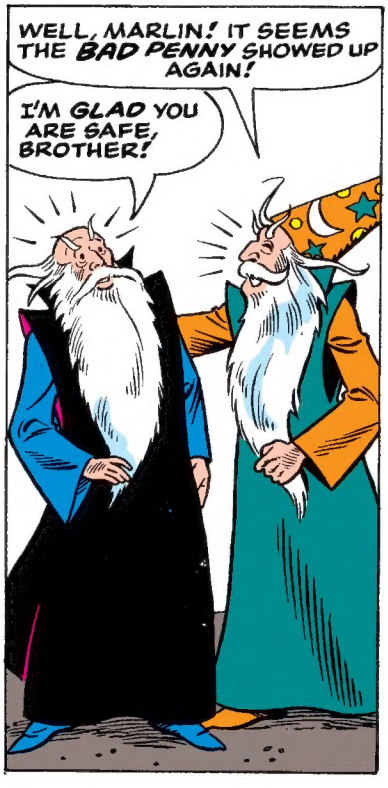

YOU CAME NOT A MINUTE TOO SOON, LAD!
HOLD TIGHT, SIRE!
OUCH! THAT'S HOT!
ZZZF

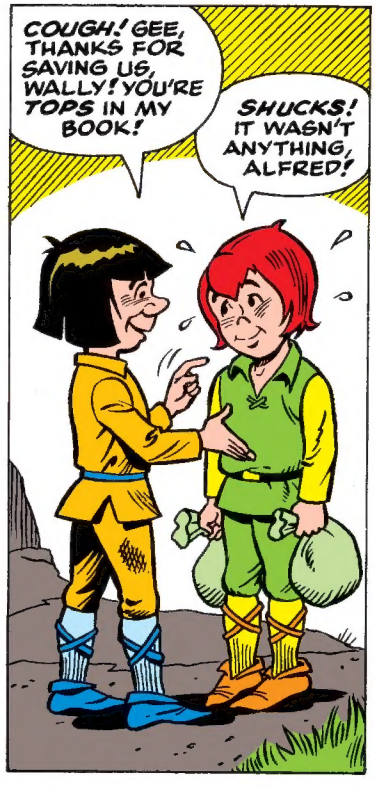
WHERE ARE WE? I CAN SEE NOTHING! IS MY GOLD SAFE?
COUGH! COUGH!
I HAVE THE GOLD! JUST FOLLOW ME AND WE'LL SOON BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN!

AN HOUR HAS PASSED AND NO SIGN OF WALLY OR MERLIN!...COULD THEY HAVE PERISHED?...GASP!...OH, NO! IT MUST NOT BE!


IF AUGHT HAPPENS TO THAT BOY, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF!
WHY DOESN'T HE APPEAR? SIGH!
SIRE! I FOUND YOUR BROTHER MERLIN AND HIS APPRENTICE, ALFRED!

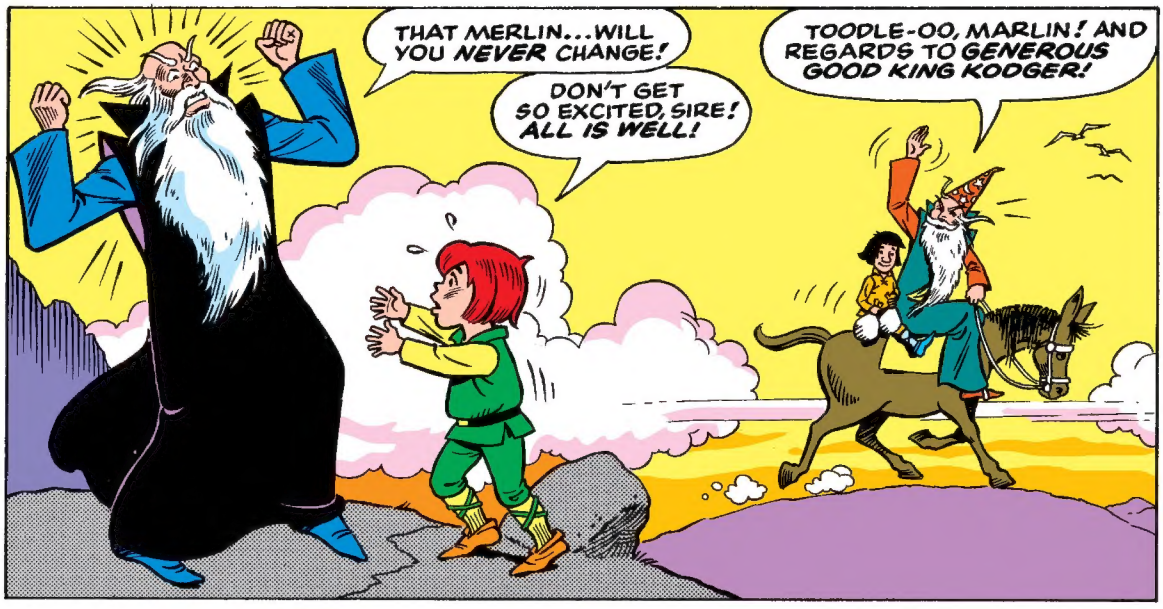

WALLY, MY BOY! ...YOU DID IT! AND YOU'RE BACK SAFELY!
HERE THEY ARE, SIRE! SAFE AND SOUND!

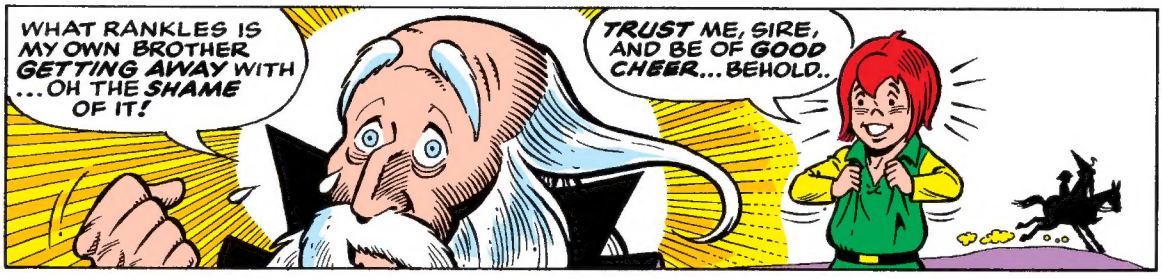

WELL, MARLIN! IT SEEMS THE BAD PENNY SHOWED UP AGAIN!
I'M GLAD YOU ARE SAFE, BROTHER!

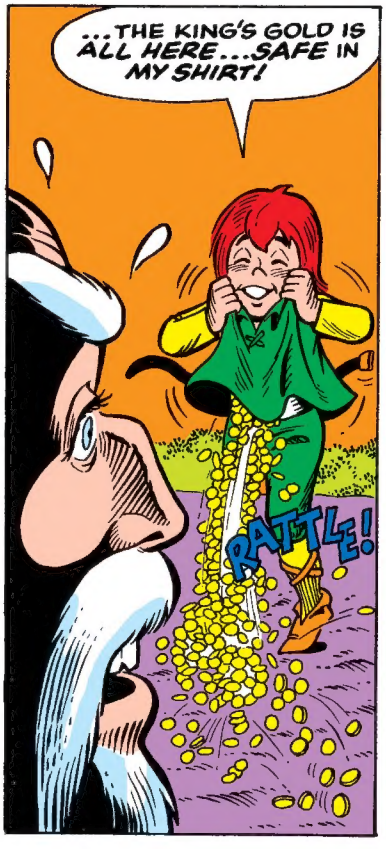

COUGH! GEE, THANKS FOR SAVING US, WALLY! YOU'RE TOPS IN MY BOOK!
SHUCKS! IT WASN'T ANYTHING, ALFRED!

AND THANK YOU FOR CARRYING MY BAGS, LAD! YOU'VE BEEN A REAL HELP TOWARD MY RETIREMENT FUND!
GRAB!
YOU'RE WELCOME, SIRE!

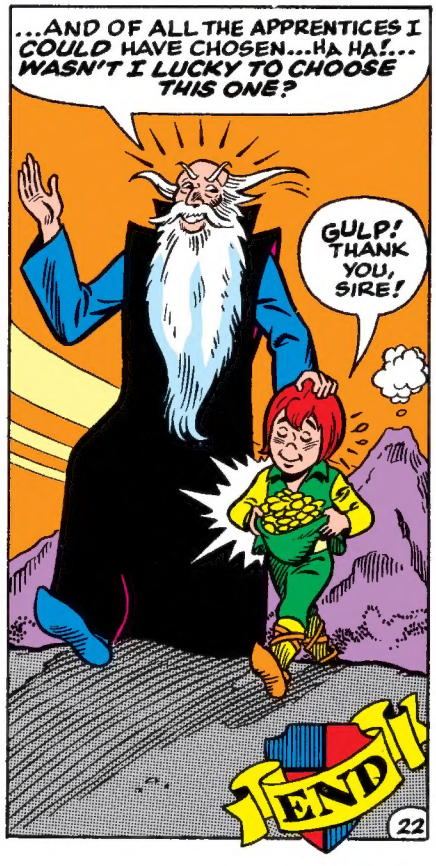
THEN IT'S GOOD-BYE AGAIN, BROTHER MERLIN?
YOU WOULDN'T CONSIDER LEAVING THIS DUMP, WOULD YOU, MARLIN?
WE COULD DO A GREAT BROTHER ACT TOGETHER! IT WOULD BE A SMASH HIT!
I COULD GET US SOME BIG BOOKINGS AT JOUSTS AND FAIRS!
MERLIN, MY BROTHER, DOES NOT YOUR CONSCIENCE KEEP YOU FROM LEAVING WITH GOOD KING KODGER'S GOLD?
...HAVING PERFORMED NO SERVICE TO EARN IT?
WHAT SERVICE I DID PERFORM WAS USING MY WITS! CHUCKLE!...IT'S CALLED SELF-SERVICE, DEAR BROTHER! GIGGLE!


THAT MERLIN...WILL YOU NEVER CHANGE!
DON'T GET SO EXCITED, SIRE! ALL IS WELL!
TOODLE-OO, MARLIN! AND REGARDS TO GENEROUS GOOD KING KOOGER!


WHAT RANKLES IS MY OWN BROTHER GETTING AWAY WITH ...OH THE SHAME OF IT!
TRUST ME, SIRE, AND BE OF GOOD CHEER...BEHOLD..


...THE KING'S GOLD IS ALL HERE...SAFE IN MY SHIRT!
RATTLE!

IN ORDER TO CLIMB TO SAFETY, MERLIN HAD TO PASS THE BAGS OF GOLD UP TO ME; IN THE DENSE SMOKE, I EMPTIED THE BAGS OF GOLD INTO MY SHIRT AND SUBSTITUTED ROCKS INSTEAD! GIGGLE!
YOU MEAN...!? HA-HA-HA! THIS TIME MERLIN GOT HIS DUE!


...AND OF ALL THE APPRENTICES I COULD HAVE CHOSEN...HA HA!... WASN'T I LUCKY TO CHOOSE THIS ONE?
GULP! THANK YOU, SIRE!
THE END